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[Review of] Encyclopedia of Great Popular Song Recordings

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Sullivan, Steve. **Encyclopedia of great popular song recordings**. Scarecrow, 2013. 2v bibl indexes afp ISBN 9780810882959, \$200.00; ISBN 9780810882966 ebook, \$199.99

Sullivan (musician, radio host, and editor/owner, LDI Publications) explores the diversity of popular music in one- to three-page entries covering some 1,000 recordings from 1889 to 2012. Selections are chosen from well-known lists such as those of the Grammy Hall of Fame, National Recording Registry, *Rolling Stone*, and the top 100 hits from *Joel Whitburn's Pop Memories, 1890-1954* (1986)--the final example a sometimes maligned (for misinformation) publication ghostwritten by Sullivan. This well-documented encyclopedia draws on many respected sources, including *Music Trades* <http://www.musictrades.com/>, which is particularly pertinent for earlier works. Popular music herein includes rock, soul, country, jazz, blues, gospel, and ethnic music. Entries are chronological within ten "playlists," providing charting/list information, performer, writer, recording specifics, and documented history and commentary covering the song and the creators and performers. The ten playlists are labeled with a song title from the pertinent section, but the groupings' relevance is not stated or obvious (e.g., playlist "Crazy Blues" includes "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" and "Smells like Teen Spirit"); a single chronological presentation would serve as well. The indexes are superb. For breadth of coverage and currency, this set (also available electronically through ProQuest and EBSCO) is a useful, superior complement to David Ewen's *American Popular Songs* (CH, Nov'67). **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through researchers/faculty; general readers.

--R. A. Aken, *University of Kentucky*

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